

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, February 9, 2009

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Brian Donegan, Jeff Murphy, John Timmons, Donnie Simpson, Bob Veshancey, Jon Liss, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

Guest: Tim Lovain (Councilman)

Jim started the meeting by asking members to review and approve the January minutes. The minutes were approved as written. He then indicated that he had been contacted by the Washington Post about an article they were doing on Titan pride in Alexandria. As part of that, they wanted to take a picture of youth sports participants. He asked Board members to get some representative kids from each sport for the picture opportunity later this week. Board members agreed and will coordinate through Mac.

Jim also wanted the Board to know that there would be a meeting with Councilman Krupicka on Thursday of this week. The Councilman wasn't able to attend the meeting tonight, but wanted to make sure he met with Board members. Jim and others indicated that they would be at the Thursday meeting.

He then introduced Councilman Tim Lovain who had agreed to meet with the Board regarding the fields funding issue in the City.

The councilman indicated that he was a soccer dad and strongly supported the initiative of artificial turf fields in Alexandria. He highlighted the following in his discussion:

- He has met with the City manager and indeed this is a bad budget time. The CIP (Capital Improvement Program) has taken a major hit with many projects being delayed.
- Regarding Roth-Witter, those fields should still be on schedule because they are using Federal money, although the City will still have to contribute some.
- The Potomac Yards fields will be delayed because the developer is slowing his construction due to the economy. The Councilman hopes that dollars now set aside for Potomac Yards can be moved to fully fund the City's contribution to Roth-Witter.
- The Braddock Road fields are postponed due to the budget.
- There is the \$1.4 million on the books for the All-City Sports Facility that may be used for other purposes if that does not go through.

- In response to John and Mac discussing youth sports use of T. C.'s new artificial turf field, the Councilman said that he would bring that up at the meetings with the School Board.
- There was some discussion of the situation about use of Bishop Ireton's field on Sundays, but efforts would have to be made to possibly amend the SUP there.
- In response to a question about what actions the Board should take, the Councilman recommended increased contacts with City Council members and also going through the Park and Recreation Commission. Maybe even a bond issue in the future may be appropriate, but the economy doesn't favor that at this time.

The Board thanked Councilman Lovain for attending the meeting and promised future cooperation on the funding and other issues. The Councilman then left the meeting.

Mac and William said that they would be meeting with the T. C. Athletic Director this week and would address the issue of use of T.C.'s field. They would also invite the AD to the March Board meeting.

Jim asked Board members with sports in season to provide updates:

Mac:

- Basketball
 - In full swing
 - Everything going well
- Baseball/Softball
 - Registration going on
 - 4 Mile field dedication later this year
- Rec dept. met with police about illegal use of the fields
 - Mac came across some usage this past weekend.
 - Police have pledged cooperation.

Brian (Lacrosse):

- Started try-outs
- Registration is up

Jeff (Rugby):

- Asked if the front field at T. C. is available for practice. Mac indicated no – that it was not in playable condition
- Alerted Board members to national TV broadcast of Hyde Park rugby team in DC (had shown the Board a video of them last year).

Bill (Basketball)

- Thanked Mac for coordinating with T. C. about youth teams going up to see T. C. games for free. Several teams have taken advantage of that offer.

William indicated that the new Charles Houston Recreation Center would be dedicated this Saturday. The new Director is Sheila Whiting (former director of the Mount Vernon Rec Center).

Jim invited Board members to attend a meeting on the 19th of parents and supporters trying to help T. C. players get into college.

Mac will advise Board members of the next meeting date.